



## Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act of 2021

Over the past few months, the Coronavirus pandemic has devastated the economy for everyday families, and while millionaires and billionaires are back to life as normal, many families are still at risk of eviction, unemployed, and out of options. On one hand, this crisis has exposed the failure the wealthiest country in the world to set a floor below which we let no American fall. On the other, it's demonstrated the real and meaningful ability for federal programs to keep Americans out of poverty.

The Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act of 2020 would establish a three-year nationwide pilot program that gives a monthly support payment to individuals taxpayers between the ages of 18-65, implemented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

- The pilot program created by the bill would distribute **monthly cash payments** to included participants in amounts **equal to fair market rent for a 2-bedroom home** in their zip code, or a similar amount to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with payments arriving on or near the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month.
- **Payments to participants made through the pilot program would not be considered when determining eligibility for federal or federally assisted state or local assistance programs**, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.
- The bill requires HHS to work with a non-profit academic or research institution with experience in mixed-method experimental design to support development of the pilot program and ensure measurable results.
- The pilot program would include 12,000 individuals, including a control group of 6,000, to allow of comparison of economic security for the families involved at the end of the three-year period.
- The bill requires HHS, the Internal Revenue Service and the designated research institution to provide an interim report on the pilot program's outcomes within 24 months of implementation, and a final report within 12 months of the program's conclusion.

For many families, the ongoing pandemic was not a once-in-a-lifetime crisis, it was just the latest mishap to wipe out their savings, leave them without rent money, or leave them unemployed. Congress provided cash payments in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act because we understood that we needed these

Americans to continue to be consumers, we needed these Americans to keep their housing, and we needed these Americans to have a fighting chance. It's time for Congress to step up and do the same no matter what the crisis is, and to explore new ways to keep families afloat. It's time to consider the potential benefits of a guaranteed income program.